

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Horn, and the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

My name is Annalisa Boerner and I live in New Haven.

I'm a member of Resource Generation which has 35 members in the state. Our organization fights for equitable distribution of land, wealth, and power.

We belong to Recovery For All – a statewide coalition fighting for a better future for Connecticut, bringing together more than 60 community, faith, and labor organizations.

I am testifying in strong support of Senate Bill 351: An Act Concerning The Restructuring Of Certain Taxes And Tax Equity and House Bill 5673: An Act Concerning The Reformation Of Certain Taxes And Tax Equity. As the wealthiest state in the country, Connecticut should be a shining example for the nation where every family has what we need to live a good life. But instead we have a state where hundreds of thousands of working people are struggling to raise families, while a handful of wealthy corporations and wealthy residents are getting even wealthier. The scale of this crisis demands a bold response—people are suffering and our state has a responsibility, and has the resources to enact policies that provide for Connecticut families.

I grew up in Ohio, the child of one first-generation and one second-generation American, two parents who were able to get college educations, buy a house in a safe and well-appointed suburb, and raise a daughter who grew up to be a professional musician. My classical music career is what brought me to Connecticut, and my love of the state is what has led me to put down roots and stay.

I am one of the lucky few. Every single family should be able to tell this sort of story, but crisis levels of inequality continue to upend and cut short the stories of millions of Connecticut families. Our tax structure is upside down and fuels this inequity - it must be changed for the sake of building all of our communities into safe, connected, prosperous communities like that one I grew up in.

One billionaire may have 10,000 times the wealth that I do, but they don't send ten thousand kids to school. They don't attend 10,000 PTA meetings, or volunteer 10,000 times as many hours, or connect with 10,000 more community members. The presence of their wealth in the market is no substitute for the taxes they need to contribute, making it possible for our state and its residents to grow and thrive.

We have an unprecedented opportunity – and the resources – to create a state where everyone has good healthcare to lead healthy lives, high quality childcare and schools for their kids, a good job to support their families, and a safe place to call home. **I urge the Committee to have the courage to make the right choice and pass Senate Bill 351: An Act Concerning The Restructuring Of Certain Taxes And Tax Equity House Bill 5673: An Act Concerning The Reformation Of Certain Taxes And Tax Equity.**

Thank you,
Annalisa Boerner

New Haven, CT